

OUR PLATFORM.

ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARTY AT OMAHA.

The Preamble States the Conditions, the Platform Gives the Remedy—Land, Money and Transportation Reform.

Assembled upon the one hundred and sixteenth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the people's party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their actions the blessing of Almighty God, puts forth in the name and on behalf of the people of the country the following preamble and declaration of principles:

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the congress, and touches even the ermine on the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, and the land concentrating in the hands of the capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down, and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these in turn despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized, to add to the purchasing power of gold, by decreasing the value of all forms of property as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism. We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious effort to prevent or restrain them.

Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demoralization of silver, and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives, and children on the altar of mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires. Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation and filled with the spirit of the grand general chief, who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hand of "the plain people" with whose class it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the national constitution, to form a more perfect union and establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be pinned together by bayonets; that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it, and that we must be in fact, as we are in name, one united brotherhood. Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings, the im-

poorishment of the people, and the exclusive of the people. We pledge ourselves that power we will have to correct evils by wise and reasonable legislation in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition on which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions—important as they are—as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution, and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depend, and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer, before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered; believing that the forces of reform this day organized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is righted and equal rights and equal privileges established for all the men and women of this country; we declare, therefore,

First—That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any man will not work neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civil labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

Third—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporation will either own the people or the people must own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent per annum, to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or a better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept, as much as possible, in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

RECLAIMING THE LAND.

The land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads in excess of their actual needs and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

DEMANDS ADOPTED

By the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union at Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 15.

Finance—We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public or private, and that without the use of banking corporations; a just, equitable and efficient means of distributing direct to the people at a tax not to exceed—per cent be provided as set forth by the sub-treasury plank of the farmers' alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvement.

a. We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the legal ratio of 16 to 1.

b. We demand that the amount of the circulating medium be increased

exclusive of the people. We pledge ourselves that power we will have to correct evils by wise and reasonable legislation in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people and hence we demand all national and state revenue shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

f. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Land—The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and lands now owned by aliens, should now be reclaimed by the government and sold for actual settlers only.

Transportation—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

a. The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity for the transmission of intelligence, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

THE BUSINESS WORLD.

American bicycles are being sold on the island of Java.

Successful experiments have been made in burning brick with electricity.

New Mexico has the lowest death rate from consumption of any state or territory in the union.

An Albino English sparrow is claimed to be in the possession of a resident of Durham, N. C.

Oranges were first seen in England in 1200, a large Spanish ship in that year bringing a cargo of the fruit to Portsmouth.

A hardware dealer of Albion, N. Y., announces that to everyone purchasing a wheelbarrow he will give a free ride home in it.

The largest stationary engine in the world is used to pump out the zinc mines at Friedville, Pa. Its driving wheels are thirty-five feet in diameter.

Assuming the working age to be from twenty to sixty years, and counting only male workers, 440 persons in this country live on the labor of every 100 workers.

The railways in France employ 24,080 women, the majority of whom, however, receive a small sum merely for opening and shutting gates where roads cross the track.

A new and effective machine, working automatically, has been invented for the manufacture of link belting made from sheet steel, and is adjustable for all the different sizes.

An attempt will probably be made at an early date to revive the project of building a canal from a point up the Ocmulgee river to the city of Macon, Ga. The canal will be about three miles long, and it is estimated will cost \$250,000. An abundance of water power will then be furnished to run factories, make electric power, etc.

It has been reported in Washington that the Chinese telegraphing system has been connected with the Russian system so that messages may now be sent overland between any part of China, Russia, Europe, and by cable to Africa, North and South America and Australia. The whole world is now wired and telegraphically connected.

There was an anniversary festival in London lately in honor of the noted practical humanitarian, Dr. Barnardo. Dr. Barnardo has now under his care fifty-one institutions, sheltering nearly 5,000 waifs and orphans of both sexes. During the past twenty-seven years 23,000 waifs have been through his hands, and the doctor estimates that ninety-eight per cent have been the reverse of failures.

BLITHESOME BITS.

Customer—Have you felt slippers? Clerk—Yes'm, but not for a long time now.

Young Mr. Sapley—I wish I could get me a hat that was suited to my head. Miss Palisade—Why don't you try a soft hat?

"I am taking cooking lessons of Mrs. Pierust." "Do you find them beneficial?" "Very. I have already learned to tell when something's burning."

Guest—What does this extra charge of \$2 mean? Landlord—The chambermaid says she found you this morning bathed in tears. Always charge \$2 for a bath.—Boston Transcript.

"I'll be blamed if I wouldn't be ashamed to call myself an artist and paint a picture like that." She—What's wrong? "It's a picture of still life and not a blessed jug nor nothing of the kind in sight."

Hungry Higgins—Have you got any nice, cold cake for a poor man that hasn't had a bite to eat in two days? Mrs. Wickwire—Why isn't bread good enough for you? Hungry Higgins—This is my birthday, mum.

"Pretty children you are for a minister to have!" reprovingly exclaimed a Somerville minister to his children, who were misbehaving at the table; and four-year-old "Booby" at last up: "Better than sines."

A WILD RIDE FOR LIFE.

A RANCHMAN CHASED BY A MAD HORSE.

A Horse Bitten by a Mad Dog Is Seized With Hydrophobic Symptoms and Plays Havoc With Cattle and Sheep—Adventures of a Stockman.

A stockman named Thompson, owning the Happy Jack cattle ranch in Arkansas was lately the hero of a most startling adventure, in which he barely escaped with his life. Thompson was on his way to the Platte river with several hundred head of cattle, in search of water; the smaller streams having proved inadequate in supplying the vast droves of the neighborhood. He was assisted by seven or eight cow-boys, a small number, scarcely sufficient for so large a herd, and when one flank of the moving body of animals wandered off in the night from the corral looking for the waterway to allay their thirst it was necessary for fully half the herders to go after them, thus scattering the party. Thompson himself rode east, following the tracks of cattle which he took for his own, but which proved to be those of a herd lowed down also going to the Platte.

He had got out of sight of his assistant and had dismounted to examine the trail, which he was beginning to suspect was a day or two old, when he observed a horse running toward him at a rapid gallop, says the Philadelphia Times. The animal was not saddled, but showed marks of being in recent use, and Mr. Thompson concluded that he had probably broken loose from his owner and that the latter would soon be out looking for him, so resolved to catch him. Advancing the cattleman held out his hand to the stranger, but the animal snapped at him and made a dart for the other horse, trying to hit and kicking out with his heels. Thompson, now saw the runaway was foaming in a manner that meant more than heat from his gallop, and thinking that the animal was mad, he turned to his horse's help.

Flinging himself into the saddle, he clapped spurs to him and made a break for the place where he had left the still corralled herd. The frenzied horse gave a base, and then began a break-neck race for life over the prairie. Thompson possessed the advantage of having the animal he bestrode fresh and under perfect control, while the pursuer was able to run only by spurts, with the irregularity of madness, and half blindly. But in spite of this he was sufficiently near to render the chase one of great excitement and danger, for, from the furious creature's belligerence displayed at first, it was easy to see what would be the fate of animal or man who fell before him.

So, without sparing whip or spur, Thompson flew over the ground with the mad horse only a few dozen yards in his rear. The danger was increased by the existence of large cracks in the earth gaping for water, which were often quite wide enough to admit of the horse he rode falling with one foot in them and breaking a limb, when he would be at the mercy of the pursuing, raging animal close behind him, which allowed no time for picking the way over these pitfalls. But the fiery little Spanish mustang ridden by Thompson seemed to realize that his life and that of his rider depended on his skill in avoiding these cracks, and flew over them like a bird, redoubling his speed whenever the horse following gave a shrill shriek of warning.

Once Thompson saw a rattlesnake leap out at the mustang's head, cleared a clump of tall prairie grass and sprang at his heels, but the blow failed and fastened itself on the lower leg of the animal, which came after, but with the long, greenish body still hanging to it, the mad horse did not stay for a moment, and as the mustang paused for a second to gather itself for a leap across a yielding place in the earth, where some mole had once excavated its home, gained somewhat on the flying pair. Looking back, Thompson saw the beast not more than thirty or thirty-five yards behind him, and thinking the beast almost upon him, lashed the mustang into a run that made the ground seem to spin beneath his nimble feet and was rapidly outdistancing his pursuer when he felt the girl about his steed give way and checked him only in time to save himself a hard fall.

The saddle slid off the mustang's back, and Thompson, with his feet still in the stirrups, fell easily to the ground. He picked himself up and scanned the prairie with anxious eyes for help of some sort, and to his relief he saw a horseman riding across the plain a quarter of a mile away, and standing up he hailed to this person. But at first his cries seemed incapable of reaching the man, who directed his course in an oblique line from where Thompson stood shouting to him.

At last, however, his attention appeared to be attracted by the behavior of the mad horse, and following him with his eyes he made out the ranchman and caught the latter's signals. Putting spur to his horse, the stranger came on at a gallop, holding in one hand a gun, which Thompson saw with relief and joy, and just as the mad horse reached him and he felt the hot breath from the open mouth flecked with bloody foam, a shot whistled past his ear and struck the maddened animal full in the forehead. He staggered, and fell almost under the mustang's feet, biting and snapping about him in blind fury, but the mustang, backing away from his fallen enemy, let fly at him with his heels and repeatedly

gave him rousing blows in the side, while the man who had come to Thompson's rescue, reached the group, and throwing his gun down on the ground, the agonized creature put an end to its misery and its powers for mischief.

AN ISLAND OF HIS OWN.

A Pacific Coast Man Who Owns No Allegiance Save to Himself.

The people of Olympia, Wash., and residents of neighboring points know of a lost island that is actually lost so far as the government records are concerned, says the San Francisco Chronicle. It is known to steamboat captains and people in the neighborhood as Steamboat island, because of its resemblance to a big steamboat. Instead of being lost to sight, this island has really lost its identity. According to a frank admission of the land department this island is not under the control of any known government. This discovery was made by a man by the name of E. Brunson, who squatted on the island about three years ago and then sought to file on the land as a homestead. He was sent from one point to another trying to get it surveyed, but met with nothing but disappointment at each turn. At length, after wearisome delay, the department at Washington sent word that it had no knowledge of any such piece of land within the borders of the United States. Brunson continues to squat and now defies the powers that be to oust him. He is a bachelor and is the sole resident of the island, which contains about six acres. He has a small ranch, where he raises garden truck, etc., and lives as independently as any of the proud potentates of Europe. At low tide Brunson can reach the mainland along a low spit of sand, but when the water comes in he is cut off from all communication with the outside world except by boat. This miniature kingdom is about twelve miles from Olympia, at the intersection of Big Skookum and Oyster bays. According to Brunson's first understanding his kingdom was just over the line in Mason county. It seems, however, that the middle of the channel is counted as the dividing line in the bays of Puget Sound, and by this Brunson's kingdom is in Thurston county. The question of taxation is now in dispute. Brunson refused to pay his poll tax to Mason county on the ground that his island was not subject to any government and that he was literally a law unto himself. This seems to be the generally accepted view of the case. Some of his neighbors joked him about his principality, and he remarked that he had a good notion to run up the British flag and take possession in the name of Queen Victoria. It has been suggested that if he should sell whisky within the borders of his kingdom he would soon find out who owned the island. Since he pays no taxes, his right to vote is called in question. According to latest accounts Brunson was disposed to favor Thurston county with his vote. The case is quite interesting and has provoked no little discussion among the inhabitants of the sound.

The Woman and the Rose.

A traveler stopped at a little cabin in the Georgia woods. He wore a white rose on his coat—one that a little girl had picked and pinned there as he was leaving home.

A woman entered the cabin. She stood and gazed at the rose a moment; then, darting forward, she tore it from the stranger's coat and stamped it on the rude floor. "Why did you do that?" asked the stranger, leaping to his feet. "Hush!" said a man who was sitting near. "That's my wife, and—she ain't right here," tapping his forehead. "We had a little girl once with blue eyes and hair like a sunset. She wandered off among the roses one day—lost, lost!—an' when we found her she was where the roses grow, an' they was creepin' over her. An' the wife there went mad, an' now she says the roses stole the child and hid her away from us forever, an' she goes about an' tramples them—just like she did the rose there—on the floor!"

To Warn Fools.

"Why do you always sound that going as you pass another car?" the motorman was asked. "To try to warn fools who haven't any better sense than to jump off the wrong side of a car backwards or with closed eyes," he replied. "The only thing we can do is to try to ding caution into their ears. You'd be surprised to count the number of such people we see every day."

The Wanderer's Reason.

First Tramp—Goin' in that house over there, pard? Second Tramp—I tried that house last week, I ain't going there any more.

"Fraid on account of the dog?" "My pants are." "Pants are what?" "Fraid on account of the dog."—Texas Sittings.

Strength from Alcohol.

There is a common belief that alcohol gives new strength and energy after fatigue sets in. The sensation of fatigue is one of the safety valves of the human machine; to stifle the feeling of fatigue in order to do more work is like closing the safety valve so that the boiler may be overheated and explosion result.

Satan in the Talmud.

According to the Talmudists, Satan whose real name is Samael, or Eblis, was originally an angel with six wings. He is also known as the Old Serpent, the Devil, Beelzebub, the Unclean Spirit, Leviathan and Asael.

THE FRESH YOUNG MAN.

A Story of a Visit to the Dentist Re-visited the Young Lady.

The fresh young man had been talking for two hours. The young woman on whom he was calling had listened until she was tired to death, and still the fresh young man worked his jaws and talked and talked and talked.

Something was said about personal courage and will-power and that sort of thing, and the fresh young man took his cue. "I was down to a dentist's the other day," he said, "and I flatter myself that I proved my courage and will-power perfectly. I've got both. You see it was this way: I met a friend on the street one morning who was suffering from a terrible toothache. His face was all swelled up and he told me that he was on his way to a dentist's. Now, I had nothing to do and I determined to go along with my friend and have my teeth fixed, too. My friend sat down in the chair and, as soon as the dentist began prying around in his mouth, he began to yell 'murder' and he kept it up until I was ashamed to think of him as a friend. Finally the dentist got through with the man who had little nerve and I stepped into his chair, firm in the determination that I would not utter a sound, no matter how much the dentist hurt me."

"He took out one of his instruments of torture and pried around in my mouth for a time. Then he announced that it would be necessary to kill the nerve in the tooth which he had located, and he said that he would do it then and there. He did it. He hurt me as no mortal was ever hurt before. He jabbed that elongated crocheted-needle of his clear up to the top of my head and twisted it around as roughly as if he were digging a post-hole. All this time my friend sat and watched me roll around in the chair, but he didn't hear me say a word. I never opened my mouth. It took courage and it took will-power, and for half an hour I sat there with the tears running down my face and suffered untold agonies. But I didn't give up. I didn't whimper and, would you believe it, when I got down out of that chair I could not speak a word. My voice had lost its full rich tone and all I could do was whisper unintelligibly. I took it that I bit so hard on the doctor's instrument that the strain, combined with the great exertion of will-power, sort of paralyzed the vocal apparatus."

"Oh, Mr. Fresshe!" broke in the young woman, "why don't you get your teeth fixed every day?"

And he never stopped to say good-night.

Trapping the Steam.

A Manchester firm is introducing a new steam trap of great simplicity. As described by "Industries and Iron," it consists of a box of the ordinary construction provided with inlet and outlet orifices. The inlet can be closed, by means of a conical valve, which when pressed into the orifice and against its edge forms an effective seal. The valve is fastened into a bar, extending longitudinally of the box, and sufficiently long as practically to fill it, being secured at each end. The bar when subjected to the steam which enters the trap expands, and being bound longitudinally naturally buckles or bends. It is prevented from bending in one direction by a stop, and must therefore do so in the direction of the inlet. The result is that the valve is pressed into the latter, and closes it. As soon as water collects the heat acting on the bar diminishes, and contracts, thus withdrawing the valve and permitting water to pass. This action goes on automatically.

Lost Through His Love for Fun.

In one of the oldest castles of northern England visitors are shown two rooms which are connected with each other by a singular mechanism. Each room is adjoined by an alcove, used as a sleeping apartment, and the floors of the adjoining alcoves turn on a pivot in the center of the partition wall. This ingenious device was the invention of one of the ancestors of the present proprietor, who was somewhat of a wag and found great pleasure in frightening and mystifying his guests. When one had gone to bed in the green room and the other in the blue room the floors were turned on their pivots, and on waking the visitor found himself in strange quarters, with clothes that were not his own. It is said that this fun-loving lord lost a rich inheritance by thus disturbing the restful moments of a wealthy aunt, who never forgave the trick her nephew played upon her.

Honestly Ungrateful.

"I hope you are suitably thankful, brother," said Elder Keepalong, as he walked into Deacon Ironside's workshop and sat down on a stool, "that the fire that burned down so many houses on your street last night spared your house."

"Thankful!" exclaimed the old deacon. "Thankful that it spared my big house and burned the Widder Pearsall's little cottage right across the alley from mine? Not much I ain't! I could have stood it and she can't."

And Deacon Ironside, with a most unthankful look on his rugged old face, began filing a saw.

A Nice Distinction.

Timmins—Can your daughter play the piano?

Robbins, wearily—I don't know whether she can or not, but she does.—Chicago Record.